

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01362 111628Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9071
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1362

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3.)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD MISSION: ATHENS PROGRAM

REF: A. STATE 31298 B. ATHENS 1316

1. ON RECEIPT OF YOUR REPLY (REF A) TO OUR PROPOSED
ATHENS PROGRAM FOR MR. CLIFFORD, I SPOKE TO FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS THIS MORNING. I SAID THAT MR. CLIFFORD
THOUGHT THE OVERALL PROGRAM WAS FINE AND HE WAS MOST
APPRECIATIVE AND THAT THERE WERE ONLY A COUPLE OF
MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN TIMING THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.

2. THURSDAY, FEB 17. I SAID THAT CLIFFORD'S
ARRIVAL FROM VIENNA WOULD BE LATER THAT AFTERNOON THAN
WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT AND WONDERED IF THE CALLS ON
CARAMANLIS AND TSATSOS COULD BE CHANGED FROM 6:00 AND
6:30 PM TO 6:30 AND 7:00 PM, RESPECTIVELY. BITSIOS
SEEMED AT FIRST TO BE A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH
PROPOSING SUCH CHANGES TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
PRESIDENT AND GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE THOUGHT THE MORE
APPROPRIATE THING WOULD BE FOR CLIFFORD TO ASSURE HIS
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ARRIVAL IN TIME FOR THE OFFERED APPOINTMENTS INSTEAD
OF ASKING THESE TOPMOST GREEK OFFICIALS TO READJUST
THEIR SCHEDULES -- THE MORE SO SINCE BOTH OF THEM HAVE
HAD A LONG-STANDING EARLIER COMMITMENT TO CHANGE CLOTHES
AND ATTEND AN IMPORTANT BANQUET THAT EVENING.
FEELING THAT MR. CLIFFORD WOULD NOT WANT ME TO INSIST TOO STRONG-
LY ON THIS POINT I BEGAN TO BACK OFF, SAYING I WOULD GET

IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON AGAIN TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ASSURE ADHERENCE TO THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TIMES. HOWEVER, BITSIOS' MOMENTARY STICKINESS QUICKLY EVAPORATED AND HE SAID HE "WOULD TRY" TO MAKE THE REQUESTED ADJUSTMENTS. THEREFORE, I THINK WE SHOULD LET THE MATTER STAND AND DO OUR UTMOST TO ACCEPT WHATEVER HE COMES BACK WITH.

3. FOLLOWING THESE EARLY EVENING MEETINGS THURSDAY WITH CARAMANLIS AND TSATSOS, I WILL TAKE CLIFFORD BACK TO OUR RESIDENCE AND WE WILL BE PREPARED TO OFFER HIM A LIGHT SUPPER OR WHAT EVER HE WISHES BEFORE RETIRING. WE HAVE CANCELLED PLANS FOR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY THAT EVENING, IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL. FOR THE COURTESY CALLS ON CARAMANLIS AND TSATSOS I WOULD SUGGEST THAT CLIFFORD BE ACCOMPANIED BY NIMETZ, LEDSKY, AND ME.

4. FRIDAY, FEB 18. FOR THE FRIDAY MORNING 11:00AM MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS, I UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY BITSIOS AND MOLYVIATIS WILL BE THERE AND THAT MOLYVIATIS WILL DO WHATEVER INTERPRETING FOR BOTH PRINCIPALS THAT IS REQUIRED. FOR THAT MEETING I SUGGEST THAT CLIFFORD BE ACCOMPANIED BY NIMETZ AND ME, WITH LEDSKY TO TAKE NOTES AND PREPARE A RECORD OF THE MEETING, IF AGREEABLE. AT ALL OTHER MEETINGS WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE AN EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENT TO PREPARE THE RECORD. BITSIOS AGREED THAT THE LATE AFTERNOON MEETING BEGIN AT 6:00 PM INSTEAD OF 5:30 PM AS SUGGESTED REFTEL.

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5. THE REST OF THE PROGRAM REMAINS UNCHANGED AS DISCUSSED REF B.

6. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO BITSIOS FOR HIS OFFER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A RETURN STOP SOMEWHERE IN GREECE AFTER THE MISSION DEPARTS CYPRUS AND SAID THIS WOULD BE KEPT IN MIND BUT NO DECISION WOULD BE MADE UNTIL AFTER CLIFFORD ARRIVES ATHENS, AT THE EARLIEST. BITSIOS SAID THAT WOULD BE FINE.

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